1

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE& EMPOWERMENT

(2004)

(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

FIRST REPORT

ON

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2004-2005)

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

Presented to Lok Sabha on 18.8.04

Laid in Rajya Sabha on **18.8.04**

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

August, 2004/Sravana 1926(Saka)

C O N T E N T S

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTORY

CHAPTER II. GENERAL PERFORMANCE OF THE MINISTRY

CHAPTER III. SCHEDULED CASTES DIVISION

A. Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes

B. Scheme for Upgradation of Merit of for SC students

C. Hostels for Scheduled Castes Girls and Boys

CHAPTER IV. OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES DIVISION

A. National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation

CHAPTER V. MINORITY DIVISION

A. Maulana Azad Education Foundation

CHAPTER VI. DISABILITY DIVISION

A. Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase of Aids and Appliances

B. National Commission for Persons with Disabilities

C. Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)

CHAPTER VI. SOCIAL DEFENCE DIVISION

A. An Integrated Programme for Older Persons

ANNEXURE I: Minutes of the First Sitting of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment held on 10th August, 2003

ANNEXURE II: Minutes of the Third Sitting of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment held on 17th August, 2003

APPENDIX: Statement of Recommendations/observations

COMPOSITION OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2004)

Smt. Sumitra Mahajan -CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS
LOK SABHA

2. Shri M. Appadurai
3. Shri Ashok Argal
4. Smt. Sushma Bauri
5. Shri Mahaveer Bhagora
6. Shri Eknath M. Gaikwad
7. Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal
8. Shri Kailash Meghwal
9. Shri Rupchand Murmu
10. Shri Jual Oram
11. Shri Rameshwar Oraon
12. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
13. Shri T. Madhusudan Reddy
14. Shri Daroga Prasad Saroj
15. Dr. R. Senthil
16. Shri Mohd. Shahid
17. Smt. Pratibha Singh
18. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya
19. Smt. Krishna Tirath
20. Smt. Usha Verma
21. Shri K. Yerrannaidu

MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA

22. Smt. Jamana Devi Barupal
23. Shri Silvius Condpan
24. Shri R.S. Gavai
25. Dr. Narayan Singh Manaklao
26. Shri Abdul Wahab Peevee
27. Shri Dharam Pal Sabharwal
28. Shri Ram Narayan Sahu
29. Smt. Savita Sharda
30. Shri Trilochan Singh
31. Shri Veer Singh

SECRETARIAT

1.	Shri John Joseph	-	Additional Secretary
2.	Shri J.P.Sharma	-	Director
3.	Shri Bhupesh Kumar	-	Under Secretary
4.	Shri Vanlalruata	-	Committee Officer

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2004) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this First Report, of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment on Demands for Grants, 2004-2005.

2. Departmentally Related Standing Committee system has been restructured in July 2004. Subsequently, the erstwhile Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare has been bifurcated – as Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment and the other one is the Standing Committee on Labour. Under the restructured Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment, there are two Ministries namely, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

3. The Committee considered the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for the current year i.e. 2004-2005 which were laid on the Table of the House on July 20, 2004. Thereafter, the Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on August 10, 2004. The Committee considered and finalized the Report at their sitting held on August 17, 2004.

4. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for placing before them the detailed written notes on the subject and furnishing the information the Committee desired in connection with the examination of the Demands for Grants and tendering evidence before the Committee.

5. For facility of reference and convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report and have also been reproduced in a consolidated form in Appendix I to the Report.

NEW DELHI;

August 17, 2004
26 Sravana 1926 (Saka)

Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and Empowerment

CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTORY

1.1 The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have informed the Committee that the mandate of the Ministry is to work towards the mainstreaming of the disadvantaged and the marginalized sections of the society such as, Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities, aged persons, persons with disabilities, victims of substance abuse and children in need of care and protection. The objective is to empower the target groups through their educational, economic and social development and build self-reliance and self-esteem. The areas concerning the Ministry are also those where a pivotal role is played by the State Governments. The State Governments are allocating substantial portions of their resources to the welfare of the disadvantaged and marginalized sections of the society. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment channelizes some resources to the States/UTs for funding specified programmes for the welfare of those sections. The Ministry also maintains regular interaction with the State GovernmentS on issues relating to empowerment of the disadvantaged and marginalized sections. Besides the implementation of different schemes is monitored and feedback obtained on these aspects. The Ministry is also charged with the Constitutional obligation of ensuring effective implementation of laws passed from time to time for protecting the interests of the SCs, OBCs, Minorities and disabled persons.

1.2 In order to achieve the above mentioned objectives, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been divided into the following main Divisions:-

(a) Scheduled Castes Development
(b) Other Backward Classes
(c) Minorities and Wakf Administration
(d) Welfare of persons with Disabilities
(e) Social Defence including Care and Protection of Children

1.3 The Ministry gets specialised and technical inputs from the following National Institutes/Apex level bodies, which are under the administrative control of the Ministry

- Deen Dayal Upadhay Institute for the Physically Handicapped
- National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped
- National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research
4 National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped
5 Ali Yuvar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped
6 National Institute for the Visually Handicapped
7 Central Adoption Resources Agency
8 National Institution of Social Defence

1.4 The functioning of the following National Commissions and apex bodies also come under the purview of the Ministry:

- National Commission for Scheduled Castes;
- National Commission for Safai Karamcharis;
- National Commission for Backward Classes;
- National Commission for Minorities;
- National Commission for Denotified Tribes, Nomadic and Semi-nomadic Tribes;
- National Commission for Persons with Disabilities
- Commission for Economically Backward Classes
- Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities;
- The Chief Commissioner for Disabilities;
- Rehabilitation Council of India
- Dr. Ambedkar Foundation
- National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities.
- District Rehabilitation Centres

1.5 With a view to giving an impetus to the socio-economic upliftment and to ensure availability of concessional finance to the disadvantaged and marginalized sections, the following Apex Corporations/PSUs have been set up under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956:

- National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation;
- National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation;
- National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation;
- National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation;
- National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation.
- Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India Ltd.

1.6 In addition to the above-mentioned organisations under the administrative control of the Ministry, Plan and Non-Plan Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Schemes are also implemented by the Ministry with the help of State Governments, Union Territory Administrations, Non Governmental Organizations and Institutes of Local Self-Government.

1.7 The Demands for Grants 2004-2005 asked by the Ministry are given under Demand No.88. The Committee have attempted to scrutinize these demands to the extent possible within the short time available and the conclusions drawn by the Committee have been highlighted in the succeeding C**hapters.**

CHAPTER-II

GENERAL PERFORMANCE OF THE MINISTRY

2.1 The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has furnished the following statement showing the Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Expenditure incurred during the year 2003-2004 along with the Budget Estimates for the year 2004-05 under various divisions of the Ministry:

(Rs. in crore)

SN	**Bureau**	**2003-04**					**2004-05**
			BE	RE	Exp (upto 31.3.2004	% of Exp. to RE	BE
1	Scheduled Castes Development	Plan	953.64	837.14	855.29	102.16	965.09
		Non Plan	9.66	9.44	9.03	95.65	8.63
		Total	**963.60**	**846.58**	**864.32**	**102.09**	**973.72**
2	Other Backward Classes	Plan	63.10	57.47	59.93	106.90	66.30
		Non Plan	1.45	1.51	1.26	83.44	3.11
		Total	**64.55**	**58.98**	**61.19**	**103.74**	**69.41**
3	Minorities	Plan	47.61	33.69	21.21	62.95	71.29
		Non Plan	5.53	5.02	4.84	4.34	5.68
		Total	**53.14**	**38.71**	**26.05**	**67.29**	**76.97**
4	Welfare of the Disabled	Plan	196.55	185.25	167.88	90.62	224.54
		Non Plan	30.35	33.94	32.10	94.57	33.98
		Total	**226.90**	**219.19**	**199.98**	**91.23**	**258.52**
5	Social Defence and Child Welfare	Plan	85.95	78.95	76.93	97.44	97.98
		Non Plan	2.86	2.86	2.22	77.62	3.18
		Total	**88.81**	**81.81**	**79.15**	**96.74**	**101.16**
6	Secretariat	Plan	1.00	1.00	1.04	104.00	1.00
		Non Plan	9.65	9.70	9.67	99.69	10.37
		Total	**10.65**	**10.70**	**10.71**	**100.09**	**11.37**
	Lump sum allocation for NE & Sikkim	Plan	63.15	57.50	0.00	0.00	65.80
	Sub Total	**Plan**	**1410.00**	**1225.00**	**1182.27**	**94.58**	**1492.00**
		Non Plan	**59.56**	**62.54**	**59.21**	**94.67**	**65.01**
	Grand Total		**1469.56**	**1312.54**	**1241.48**	**95.58**	**1502.78**

2.2 The Ministry has stated in their written reply that as per guidelines issued by the Planning Commission, the Ministry is required to formulate the Annual Plan Proposal (2004-2005) with the budgetary support equivalent to 110% of the BE 2003-2004. The Ministry had submitted the Annual Plan proposal (2004-2005) of Rs. 1506.16 crore for allocation by the Planning Commission. However, the Planning Commission has allocated only Rs. 1492.00 crore.

Annual Plan Proposal for 2004-2005

(Rs. In crore)

S. No	Bureau or Scheme	Allocation for 2004-2005		
		BE	NE	Total
1	2	3	4	5
	Scheduled Castes Development	1006.46	20.54	1027.00
2	Other Backward Classes	68.32	7.59	75.91
3	Minorities	25.20	2.80	28.00
4	Welfare of Persons with Disabilities	235.35	26.15	261.50
5	Social Defence	102.38	11.37	113.75
	Grand Total	**1437.71**	**68.45**	**1506.16**

Allocation for 2004-2005

(Rs in crore)

S. No.	Bureau/Scheme	Annual Outlay		
		BE	NE	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1	Scheduled Castes Development	966.09	20.26	986.35
2	Other Backward Classes	65.30	7.25	72.55
3	Minorities	71.29	2.36	73.65
4	Welfare of Persons with Disabilities	225.54	25.06	250.60
5	Social Defence	97.98	10.87	108.85
	Grand Total	**1426.20**	**65.80**	**1492.00**

During 2003-04 the BE was Rs.1410 crore which was revised downward at RE stage to Rs.1250 crore. Further, the actual expenditure on all the schemes of the Ministry out of this RE was Rs.1182.26 crore upto 31 March 2004. On being asked the reasons for less expenditure, the Ministry has inter-alia given the following main reasons:

- The Ministry of Finance conveys the revised estimates on the basis of expenditure level upto 30th September. Generally, the proposals from the State Governments and NGOs associated with the implementation of the schemes of the Ministry are received late and so the utilization of funds by the ministry is around 30-35% and the pace increases in the second half of the year. The budget at the RE stage is reduced for this reason. In 2003-2004, a cut of Rs. 120.00 crore was imposed by the Ministry of Finance.

- The scheme for the Welfare of Working Children and children in need of care and protection (for which an amount of Rs. 7.00 crore was budgeted) is pending with the Supreme Court for approval. Therefore, the budgeted funds could not be utilized.

- The funds available for the scheme of upgradation of Merit for SC students could not be fully utilized, as the proposal for revision of the scheme could not be approved during the years.

- The budget allocation of Rs. 30.00 crore was to be released to the Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) during 2003-2004 for building its corpus after obtaining the approval of the Expenditure Finance Committee and Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). Meanwhile, the Department of Expenditure issued orders for mandatory cut on the budget of the Ministry, and at the RE stage, the budget of MAEF was reduced to Rs. 20.32 crore. However, matter for release of this amount could not be placed before the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs due to dissolution of 13th Lok Sabha on 6th February 2004. Therefore, only the interest equivalent of Rs. 3.57 crore was released in 2003-2004.

- Rehabilitation Council of India- An amount of Rs. 0.91 crore was available with the RCI as unspent balance for the year 2002-2003 and the requirement for 2003-2004 was therefore adjusted accordingly.

- Schemes arising out of the Implementation of PWD Act – An amount of Rs. 4.22 crore could not be spent, as the Awareness Generation Programme proposed under this scheme was not approved by the Planning Commission.

- Employment of the Handicapped – Completed proposals from the State Governments/UTs were not received.

- Rs. 36.66 crore under the head lump sum for the benefit of NE region and Sikkim could not be utilized due to non-receipt of adequate proposals from the NE region under various schemes of the Ministry.

2.4 In reply to a question regarding status of Utilization Certificates received from States/UTs and the action taken against the States/UTs which are not able to furnish the utilization certificates the ministry has furnished the following statement: -

Grants withheld for States that did not provide utilization certificates of past releases

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Name of the Scheme	Year of UC due
1	Andhra Pradesh	(i) A Programme for Juvenille Justice	2002-03
2	Assam	(i) A Programme for Juvenille Justice	1998-99
3	Bihar	(i) Hostels for SC boys and girls (ii) Post Matric Scholarship for OBCs	1996-97 to 2003-04 2001-02
4	Goa	(i) Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan	2001-02
5	Himachal Pradesh	(i) Post Matric Scholarship for OBCs	2001-02
6	Jharkhand	(i) Post Matric Scholarship for OBCs (ii) Hostels for OBC boys and girls (iii) A Programme for Juvenille Justice	2001-02 2001-02 2002-03
7	Kerala	(i) Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan	202-03
8	Madhya Pradesh	(i) Pre Matric Scholarship for OBCs (ii) Hostels for OBC boys and girls	1998-99 & 2002-03 2002-03
9	Manipur	(i) Hostels for OBC boys and girls (ii) A Programme for Juvenille Justice	2000-01 2000-01
10	Orissa	(i) Upgradation of Merit for SC students (ii) Hostels for OBC boys and girls	2002-03 2002-03
11	Sikkim	(i) Hostels for OBC boys and girls	2002-03
	UTs		
1	Pondicherry	(i) A Programe for Juvenile Justice	1992-93

2.5 The Ministry have also informed the Committee that under the subject of "Surrender of Savings during 2003-2004", the Ministry could not utilize a part of its allocations due to various reasons and the same has been surrendered to Department of Economic Affairs. The total surrender made by the Ministry for the year 2003-2004 is Rs. 223. 80 crore. The reasons forwarded by the Ministry inter-alia are non-filling of posts, non-receipt of proposals, non-approval of some schemes, unspent balances with the implementing agencies, non-formulation of schemes, non-setting up of institutes etc.

2.6 In their post-evidence reply the Ministry have informed the Committee that it organized a Conference of State Secretaries on 10th &11th August 2004 to review the progress of all the schemes and programmes. They were apprised of the difficulties faced by the Ministry in regard to non-receipt of complete proposals along with utilization certificates of previous releases. The Ministry was given the feedback that the concerned department receives allocation of funds released from their State Finance Department a little late, which results in delay in sending the proposals. The Ministry will take up again the matter with the State Governments to expedite the matter. Besides the Ministry of Finance will again be requested to take expenditure as on 31st December of the year while deciding RE for the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment keeping in view the special circumstances.

2.7 The Committee note with concern that during 2003-2004, the Ministry's Budget Estimate was Rs. 1410 crore which was reduced to Rs. 1250 crore at the Revised Estimate stage, and out of this reduced budget the Ministry could spend only Rs. 1182.26 crore. The Committee have been apprised of various reasons for reduction of funds at RE stage and even less spending, such as the Ministry of Finance making the revised estimates on the basis of expenditure level upto 30th September, late receipt of proposals

and utilization certificates from State Governments and NGOs resulting in utilization of funds to the extent of only 30-35%, non-utilisation due to pendency of schemes for revision for years, unspent balance with institutes due to non-filling of posts, non-approval of awareness generation schemes, etc. Keeping in view the significance of the mandate of the Ministry, i.e. the upliftment of the most disadvantaged, marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society, the Committee strongly recommend that the Ministry should gear up its implementation and monitoring machinery and conduct periodic review meetings with the State Governments/implementing agencies and impress upon them to fully utilise the fund allocated under various schemes.

2.8 The Committee note that the Budgetary allocation of the Ministry is reduced every year at RE stage. The Committee has been apprised that the basis of reduction at RE stage is the pace of expenditure upto 30th September, which is only 30% to 35%. The Committee further note that most of the schemes of the Ministry are implemented by the State Governments and NGOs. The State Governments are not able to submit their proposals along with the utilization certificates in time, which result in slow pace of expenditure and reduction at RE stage. In the opinion of the

Committee most of the schemes/programmes of the Ministry relate to development and welfare of marginalized sections including Scheduled Castes, OBCs, Minorities and the disabled. The Committee, therefore, desire that keeping in view the practical difficulty of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the interest of weaker sections, the Ministry of Finance should be persuaded to take a lenient view and avoid drastic cuts at RE stage in allocations.

CHAPTER-III

SCHEDULED CASTES DIVISION

Major Head: 2225, 3601, 3602
Sub-Head: 793, 341

(a) SPECIAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE TO SPECIAL COMPONENT PLAN FOR SCHEDULED CASTES.

3.1 Under the scheme 100% central assistance is extended to supplement the efforts of the States/UTs for ensuring rapid socio-economic development of the Scheduled Castes (SCs). It is provided as an additive to the Special Component Plan (SCP) of the States/UTs for augmenting their efforts for the economic development of Scheduled Castes. The objective of the SCA is to support SC families to enhance their productivity and income. It focuses on maximizing the returns from the assets held by them by filling the critical gaps in the developmental needs. The SCA is released to the States/UTs on the basis of following criteria:-

a)	On the basis of SC Population of the States/UTs	:	40%
b)	On the basis of relative backwardness of the States/UTs (inverse of the State per capita Domestic Product)	:	10%
c)	On the basis of the percentage of SC families in the States/UTs covered by composite economic development programmes in the plans.	:	25%
d)	On the basis of Special Component Plan to the Annual Plan as compared to the SC population percentage in the States/UTs	:	25%

Second instalment of SCA should be released to the States/UTs after ensuring expenditure of cumulative opening balances of the

previous year and 75% utilization of the first installment for the current year.

3.2 The Ministry had submitted a proposal to the Planning Commission for allocation of Rs. 418.50 crore (Rs. 410.00 crore BE and Rs. 8.41 crore for NE) for the financial year 2004-2005. However, the Planning Commission has sanctioned only Rs. 410.20 crore (Rs. 402.00 crore BE and Rs. 8.20 crore for NE).

3.3 The Ministry has submitted the following statement showing details of State Component Plan Outlay made from State Plan Outlay:

Statement showing the details of Special Component Plan outlay during last three years

(Rs.in crore)

		2001-2002			2002-2003				2003-2004		
Sl. No	**States/UT**	**State Plan Outlay**	**SCP outlay**	**%age SCP**	**State Plan outlay**	**Flow to SCP**	**% of SCP**		**State Plan outlay**	**Flow to SCP**	**% of SCP**
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
1	A. P.	8319.40	406.72	4.89	10082.75	870.00	8.63		10971.19	810.51	7.39
2	Assam	1710.00	84.42	4.94	1507.35	69.78	4.63		781.01	65.73	2.68
3	Bihar	2392.69	394.13	16.47	2724.13	572.48	21.02				
4	Gujarat	7200.00	211.40	2.94	2025.73	150.99	7.45				
5	Goa	0.00	0	0	7600.00	421.42	5.55		7680.00	425.01	5.53
6	Haryana	2150.00	447.29	20.80							
7	H. P.	1720.00	174.00	10.12	2034.00	404.82	19.90		2100.00	416.72	19.84
8	J& K	256.63	47.84	18.64	1900.00	187.00	9.84				
9	Karnataka	8588.27	606.58	7.06							
10	Kerala	0.00	0	0							
11	M. P.	3141.09	466.33	14.85	8610.61	667.40	7.75		9127.52	645.5	7.07
12	Maharashtra	5798.00	550.00	11.00	4326.00	402.55	9.31				
13	Manipur	0.00	0	0.00	4821.00	611.79	12.69				
14	Orissa	2300.00	351.52	15.28	4150.00	530.27	12.78		5755.00	610.62	10.61
15	Punjab	3357.00	472.00	14.06							
16	Rajasthan	4515.61	718.43	15.91	3100.00	276.25	8.91		3400.00	299.68	8.81
17	Sikkim	107.63	8.41	7.81	2793.00	392.33	14.05			819.95	
18	Tamil Nadu	5200.00	987.78	19.00	4370.78	698.34	15.98		4258.00	679.15	15.95
19	Tripura	560.00	61.01	10.89	133.35	9.49	7.12		116.71	9.86	8.44
20	U. P.	8400.00	1764.00	21.00	5751.52	1103.73	19.19		7000.13	1546.64	22.09
21	West Bengal	5796.25	324.24	23.55	600.11	65.35	10.89		650.00	45.60	7.01
22	Chandigarh	154.11	9.24	6.00	7250.00	1540.00	21.24				
23	Delhi	2669.38	257.05	9.63	1533.63	262.42	17.11		1575.00	307.80	19.54
24	Pondicherry	355.00	40.24	11.34	6307.00	586.89	9.31				

	Total	74691.06	8382.63		81620.96	9823.30			53414.56	6682.77	

3.4 In reply to a query relating to taking up the matter with the Planning Commission to ensure that the 16 ministries grouped under Category III by the Central Standing Tripartite set up by the Planning Commission, based upon feasibility of earmarking funds under Special Component Plan are formulating and implementing Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub Plan under their respective Annual Plan, the Ministry has stated that the matter is being taken up with the Planning Commission.

3.5 In reply to another question relating to States/UTs, which have not fully utilized the funds released by the Ministry and not furnished their Utilization Certificates, the Ministry has stated that the State Governments of Bihar (Rs. 1237.53 lakh unspent), Goa (Rs. 13.55 lakh unspent), Jharkhand (Rs. 2117.13 lakh unspent), Kerala (Rs. 712.44 lakh unspent) and Punjab (Rs. 2084.62 lakh unspent), have not fully utilized the Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan.

3.6 Keeping in view the numerous instances of diversion of Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan funds by State Governments/UTs for other purposes like disbursement of salary to staff etc. the committee had recommended on many occasions that the Ministry should impress upon the State/UT Governments to maintain a separate account of Special Central Assistance funds. In response to the question regarding the steps taken by the Ministry to persuade the States/UTs, which have not opened separate Budget Head of Account for SCA funds so far, the Ministry has stated that the States/UTs have opened separate Budget Head under SCP. The Ministry has further added in its reply that the same, however will be confirmed from the States/UTs and regarding issue of putting embargo on the defaulting States, the same will be taken up with the Planning Commission.

3.7 In a study on "Evaluation of Implementation of Special Component Plan in 16 States having more that 15% Scheduled Castes population", carried out by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (now bifurcated), it has been inter-alia recommended:

" There is a strong need of creating awareness about Special Component Plan amongst all the concerned/potential beneficiaries, officials and elected members of the Panchayati Raj Institutions."

In response to a question regarding concrete steps taken to implement this recommendation, the Ministry has replied that it has embarked upon sustained Media campaign to create awareness of the various schemes of the Ministry and also airs a regular Radio Programme "Sanvarti Jaayein Jeevan ki Rahein" in this regard.

3.8 The Commission has also recommended that wherever cultivable land is available, it must be distributed amongst the landless Scheduled Castes or Land Purchase scheme on Karnataka pattern may be adopted in all the States. In response to a question regarding the features of the Land Purchase scheme adopted in Karnataka and the steps being taken to adopt the same, the Ministry has indicated the salient features of this scheme, which are as follows:

(a) The unit cost is Rs. 60,000/ out of which 50% subsidy and 50% is term loan at an interest rate of 6% per annum repayable in 10 annual instalments. Out of the subsidy of Rs. 30,000/- Rs. 10,000/ is given out of SCA and the balance subsidy of Rs. 20,000/- is borne by the State Government.

(b) The beneficiary should be a woman-landless agricultural labourer belonging to the SC/ST community.

(c) The land seller should not belong to the SC/ST community.

(d) The identified land should be within a radius of 5 KM from the residence of the beneficiary and should be fit for agriculture. It should be free from disputes.

3.9 With regards to steps being taken by the Ministry to impress upon the other States to adopt the same, the Ministry has replied that it does not involve itself with the States in formulation of their schemes and projects. The States/UTs have complete freedom of formulating and implementing their projects within the SCA guidelines depending upon the local

needs and resources. However, the Ministry takes initiative in suggesting adoption of innovative schemes by other states. Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu are the two states that have adopted land purchase schemes akin to the Karnataka model

3.10 The Commission has further stated that the Bankable schemes under which average loan being disbursed to Scheduled Castes beneficiaries is low and amounts to under financing, have resulted in loss of resources for the country, without any fruits to the Scheduled Castes people. In many States, annual average loan to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes by all banks comes to 4-6% of the total advances against the 'Ghosh' Committee recommendation fixed at 10%. The Commission has further observed that this percentage should be observed to at least 20% (22% Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes population share, 1971 census). In reply to the question regarding reasons for shortfall in disbursement of loans, the Ministry has replied that the NCSC has observed the following reasons for shortfall in disbursement:

(a) The bankers approach towards loaning to the beneficiary is mainly determined by the chances of the recovery of loans and percentage of defaulters.

(b) Banks demand guarantor against loan or land as collateral from the beneficiaries, which are often not available with the SCs.

(c) Illiteracy and lack of education among SCs.

(d) Lack of awareness about business avenues.

(e) Poor recovery of loan or delay in repayment.

The Ministry is examining the report of the NSSC and would take up the issue of shortfall in disbursement of loans to the SCs with the Department of banking, Ministry of Finance.

3.11 In reply to another question regarding Scheduled Castes families actually benefited by the Welfare schemes and thereby

crossing the poverty line, the Ministry has submitted the following statement:

No. of Families/Beneficiaries assisted under SCA & TPP							
Number of families assisted out of SCA							
							(Rs.in lakhs)
Sl.No	States/UT	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Andhra Pradesh	Not given	196896	Not given	167896	57597	96879
2	Assam	6917	7262	12028	23654	45551	21187
3	Bihar	Not given	132100	180100	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
4	Chattisgarh	0	0	0	8480	17450	15415
5	Gujarat	12303	24000	20787	7817	14610	3217
6	Goa	Not given	19	20	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
7	Haryana	12580	12328	2886	10114	10480	10189
8	Himachal Pradesh	44037	35825	39047	48611	24616	23912
9	Jammu & Kashmir	44719	5179	12807	14776	15349	13749
10	Jarkhand	0	0	0	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
11	Karnataka	21280	30808	33017	24242	32135	Not given
12	Kerala	44045	3472	241063	20150	Not reported	10850
13	Madhya Pradesh	Not given	106235	Not given	Not given	88085	85370
14	Maharashtra	Not given	20089	25538	38127	8422	19064
15	Manipur	230	295	Not given	Not given	254	355
16	Orissa	66713	44222	30746	29854	25026	19101
17	Punjab	17806	8147	6804	3745	3626	18353
18	Rajasthan	66724	68681	66724	62444	63071	49498
19	Sikkim	86	258	778	1351	1358	Not reported
20	Tamil Nadu	25261	19749	32473	24065	47462	71147
21	Tripura	Not given	23157	51668	Not reported	30382	1748
22	Uttar Pradesh	101139	114485	79779	105768	115165	112786
23	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	Not given	4530	5167
24	West Bengal	45950	52315	50879	108046	120911	29018
25	Chandigarh	190	234	253	133	135	600
26	Delhi	Not given	3866	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
27	Pondicherry	942	2500	2500	2568	2854	Not reported
	Total	**510922**	**715226**	**889897**	**533945**	**671472**	**510726**

STATEWISE SCHEDULED CASTE POPULATION ACCORDING TO 2001 CENSUS

Sl. No.	State/UT	Scheduled Caste (SC) Population	Percentage of SC Population
1	2	3	4
	India	**166,575,663**	**16.23**
1	Andhra Pradesh	12,339,496	16.20
2	Arunachal Pradesh	6,188	0.60
3	Assam	1,825,949	6.90
4	Bihar	13,048,608	15.70
5	Goa	23,791	1.80
6	Gujarat	3,592,715	7.10
7	Haryana	4,091,110	19.30
8	Himachal Pradesh	1,502,170	24.70
9	Jammu & Kashmir	770,155	7.60
10	Karnataka	8,563,930	16.20
11	Kerala	3,123,941	9.80
12	Madhya Pradesh	9,155,177	15.20
13	Maharashtra	9,881,656	10.20
14	Manipur		
15	Meghalaya	11,139	0.50
16	Mizoram	272	0
17	Nagaland		0
18	Orissa	6,082,063	16.50
19	Punjab	7,028,723	28.90
20	Rajasthan	9,694,462	17.20
21	Sikkim	27,165	5.00
22	Tamil Nadu	11,857,504	19.00
23	Tripura	555,724	17.40
24	Uttar Pradesh	35,148,377	21.01
25	West Bengal	18,452,555	23.0
26	Chhatisgarh	2,418,722	11.60
27	Jharkhand	3,189,320	11.80
28	Uttaranchal	1,517,186	17.90
	Union Territories		
29	Chandigarh	157,597	17.50
30	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4,104	1.90
31	Daman & Diu	4,838	3.10
32	Delhi	2,343,255	16.90
33	Pondicherry	157,771	16.20

Percentage of Population Below Poverty Line by States for 1999-2000

S.No.	State/UT	Rural	Urban
		Scheduled Castes	
1	Andhra Pradesh	16.49	41.42
2	Assam	44.00	19.99
3	Bihar	59.81	51.91
4	Gujarat	17.77	29.13
5	Haryana	19.03	25.38
6	Himachal Pradesh	13.15	6.74
7	Karnataka	26.22	47.01
8	Kerala	14.64	24.15
9	Madhya Pradesh	41.29	54.24
10	Maharashtra	33.27	39.88
11	Orissa	51.83	70.59
12	Punjab	12.39	11.30
13	Rajasthan	19.62	41.82
14	Tamil Nadu	32.59	44.94
15	Uttar Pradesh	43.65	43.51
16	West Bengal	35.10	28.15
17	All India	36.25	38.47

N.B. (i) Poverty Line for all population is used for SCs and STs
(ii) All India poverty ratio is worked out from the NSS distribution of persons and (implicit) all-India poverty line.

3.12 The Committee note with serious concern that during 2003-04 some States/UTs with sizeable SC population have not allocated funds as per laid down guidelines; (Andhra Pradesh- SC population 16.20%, SCP outlay 7.39%; Bihar- SC population 15.70%, SCP outlay Nil; Haryana - SC population 19.30%, SCP outlay Nil; Karnataka - SC population 16.20%, SCP outlay Nil; Madhya Pradesh - SC population 15.20%, SCP outlay 7.07%; Punjab SC population 28.90%, SCP outlay Nil; and West Bengal- SC population 23%, SCP outlay 7.01%). Keeping in view the fact

that percentage of SC population is the basic criteria for allocation of funds by the Central and the State Governments, the Committee express their dismay at this abysmal scenario and desire that the State Governments be persuaded in right earnest to allocate funds as per their SC population, so as to get the entitled Special Central Assistance (SCA) share from the Centre.

3.13 The Committee note that the Central Standing Tripartite Committee set up by the Planning Commission in 1999 had grouped all the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India into three categories based upon the feasibility of earmarking funds under SCP and TSP. In category-III 30 Ministries/Departments have been grouped which are service-oriented and also have activities of divisible nature. In its 30th Report on Demands For Grants (2003-04) the Committee had recommended that out of the 30 Ministries/Departments only 14 had formulated their Special Component Plan and the remaining 16 Ministries/Departments were to be persuaded by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for doing the same. Unfortunately no progress has been made in this regard. Therefore, the Committee take a serious note and strongly reiterate their earlier recommendation made in this regard. The Committee also further recommend that the

Planning Commission should not approve the Annual Plans of the Ministries which have not yet formulated the SCP for SCs.

3.14 The Committee further note that the SCA funds allocated during 2003-04 are lying unused with some State Governments like Bihar (Rs. 1237.53 lakh), Goa (Rs.13.55 lakh), Jharkhand (Rs. 2117.13 lakh) Kerala (Rs. 712.44 lakh) and Punjab (Rs. 2084.62 lakh). The Committee are disappointed to note that despite several written requests from the Ministry, State Governments have not furnished the utilization certificates so far. This clearly indicates that these State Governments are not fulfilling their commitment and obligation towards the poor SC beneficiaries and even the funds being provided by the Centre are not being utilized for their upliftment. The Committee are of the opinion that the matter should be taken up with the concerned State Governments at the highest level. The progress achieved may be conveyed to the Committee.

3.15 Similarly, the Committee have recommended on many occasions during the last few years that in order to avoid diversion of SCA funds for other purposes, the States/UTs should maintain separate accounts of SCA funds, but it is reported that only 19 States have so far opened separate budget heads for SCA funds.

Further, the Ministry do not have the names of the defaulting States/UTs which is very strange. The Committee are extremely disappointed and express their concern over this issue. The Committee strongly reiterate their earlier recommendation of opening up of a separate budget head of account of SCA funds by all States/UTs, so as to avoid diversion of funds.

3.16 The Committee take note of the recommendation of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes that the cultivable land should be distributed amongst the landless SC women from SCA funds. The land purchase scheme has been adopted in Karnataka, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu for the upliftment of SC women. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should impress upon the other States to adopt this model, as it would lead to the socio-economic emancipation of SC women by making them self-reliant.

3.17 The Committee further observe, as mentioned already, that funds are not being utilized properly by States/NGOs and they are not furnishing the Utilization Certificates in time. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment shall furnish the details of funds allotted under the schemes meant for the welfare of SC population and non-

utilization of the same by the State Governments/NGOs to the public representatives of the area to act as watchdogs and to monitor the functioning of the schemes properly.

3.18 The Committee are constrained to note that a large number of potential beneficiaries for whose welfare the Ministry have formulated various schemes are unable to avail the benefits thereof as they are not even aware of the existence of those schemes. The Committee, therefore. strongly recommend that the Ministry should take effective steps in creating full awareness about the various schemes all over the country. To meet this objective the Ministry should utilize the services of the audio-visual media, the print media and the village panchayats.

Major Head: 2552
Sub-Head: 02
Head No. 02.00.31

(b) SCHEME OF UPGRADATION OF MERIT OF SCHEDULED CASTE STUDENTS THROUGH EXTRA COACHING

3.19 The scheme of Upgradation of merit of SC students provides 100% central assistance to States/UTs for arranging remedial and special coaching for Scheduled Castes students studying in Class IX-XII. While remedial coaching aims at removing the deficiencies in school subjects, special coaching is provided with a view to prepare students for competitive examinations for entry into professional courses like Engineering and Medical Sciences.

The scheme is to be revised for assisting the meritorious SC students for pursuing quality education including technical and

professional courses. The main features of the proposed modified scheme are as follows:

(i) Scholarship award will be paid to students from IX to XII, diploma and degree level.
(ii) Selection of students will be made by the State Governments/UT Administrations based on merit (securing not less than 50% marks).
(iii) Increase in scale of assistance i.e. Rs. 12,000/- per student, per annum for IX class to XII students and Rs. 37,000/- per student per annum for degree/diploma level students.
(iv) Increase in the number of awards from 104 to 25,000.
(v) Scholarship is to be provided to the students having income less than Rs. 1 lakh per annum.
(vi) 100% financial assistance will be given to the State Governments/ UT Administrations.

The scheme is under revision for the last 2 years for want of approval from the competent authority on the modalities of the scheme.

3.20 During the financial year 2002-03 under the scheme of upgradation of Merit of SC students, the BE was Rs. 40.00 crore which was sharply revised downward to Rs. 5.00 crore at RE stage. Further out of this reduced allocation expenditure of only Rs. 3.05 crore was incurred for the upgradation of merit of SC students. Similarly, during the financial year 2003-04 the BE under the scheme was enhanced to Rs. 58.00 crore, which was again revised sharply downwards to Rs. 19 crore and out of it the expenditure of only Rs. 1.85 crore has been incurred. The Ministry in its reply has stated that the BE for 2002-03 and 2003-04 were prepared in anticipation of the replacement of the existing scheme of upgradation of Merit of SC students with a new scheme namely – "Merit Based Scholarship and Assistance to meritorious SC Students for studying in residential public schools/premier institutions". The shortfall in expenditure is on account of non-finalization of the scheme.

3.21 The Ministry had set a target benefiting 4180 students during 2002-03. The number of students given benefit was 2144. Similarly during 2003-04 the target fixed was 4180 and the number of students received benefit was 1378. As stated by the

Ministry the reason for shortfall is the limited number of awards available and thus little response from the beneficiaries.

3.22 The Committee note with concern that the Ministry have drastically revised allocation of funds for the scheme of 'Upgradation of Merit for Scheduled Caste students' in anticipation of the replacement of the existing scheme with a new scheme namely "Merit Based Scholarship and Assistance to Meritorious SC students for studying in residential public schools/premier institutions." The Committee are extremely disappointed and express their strong concern over the fact that the Ministry have not been able to finalize their proposed modifications in this scheme for the last two financial years due to procedural wrangles which have hampered the progress of this scheme. Keeping in view the pivotal role of this scheme in shaping up of the academic future of the SC students, the Committee strongly recommend that the Ministry thrash out the modalities of this new scheme with the concerned authority at the earliest, so that the bottlenecks holding the implementation of this scheme are overcome and the revised scheme can be implemented at the earliest. Further, the Committee opine that implementation of the scheme in its

present form should not be stopped until the scheme is fully revised and approved by the competent authority.

Major Head: 2225
Sub-Head: 02,14
Head No.: 02.00.31,14.00.31

(d) HOSTELS FOR SCHEDULED CASTES BOYS AND GIRLS

3.23 In order to provide hostel facilities to Scheduled Caste students the Government has formulated the scheme of Hostels for Scheduled Castes. Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to the State Governments on 50:50 matching share basis (100% to UTs) and 90% grant to Central Universities for construction of Hostel buildings for up to 100 inmates. There are separate Hostels for Girl students and Boy students.

3.24 With a view to provide hostel facilities to the students belonging to weaker sections i.e. SCs, OBCs and Minorities in a more focused manner for ensuring and enhancing facilities for pursuit of higher studies and for integrating the weaker sections within the mainstream of society, the on-going hostel scheme is to be modified by centrally sponsored scheme of " Sangati Hostels" for students belonging to these communities.

3.25 The Committee note that there are separate schemes for providing Hostel facilities to SC boys and girls and the Government is proposing to modify the existing scheme to provide for 'Sangati Hostels' jointly to students belonging to SCs, OBCs and Minority Communities for ensuring and enhancing such facilities and for integrating the weaker sections within the mainstream of society. The Committee desire that while integrating the scheme, the Scheduled Caste

students particularly Scheduled Caste girl students, should not be deprived of their legitimate share of number of seats in hostels.

CHAPTER-IV

OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES DIVISION

Major Head: 4225
Sub-Head: 05
Head No.: 05.00.54

(a) National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCF &DC)

4.1 The NBCF&DC was set up as a company not for profit under Section 25 of the Companies Act 1956 with an authroised share capital of Rs. 200.00 crore which have been enhanced to Rs. 700.00 crore. The objective of the Corporation is to provide an additional channel of finance to backward classes for economically and financially viable schemes and projects and to upgrade the technological and entrepreneurial skill of OBC individuals or groups. As such, the Corporation is granting concessional finance to eligible OBCs. In reply to a question relating to rate of interest charged for extending concessional loans to OBCs for setting up self-employment ventures and starting income generating schemes the Ministry has furnished the following statements:

Scheme	**Ceiling (per beneficiary)**	**Lending rate**		**No. of beneficiaries**	
		NBCFDC to SCA	**SCA to Beneficiary**	**2002-03**	**2003-04**
General Loan Scheme	Rs. 5,00,000	3%	6%	49855	31681
Micro credit scheme	Rs. 25,000	2%	5%	34827	52109
Mahila Samridhi Yojana	Rs. 25,000	1%	4%	-	2530
TOTAL				**84682**	**86320**

4.2 The Ministry has also informed that the SCAs do not have proper infrastructure neither at Head Office level nor at District level. There is need to streamline and simplify the proposal processing procedures, to provide technical/market support and guidance, to impart training and to generate awareness.

4.3 The Committee note with dismay that the NBCFDC provides funds to State Channelising Agencies @ 3%, 2% and 1% interest respectively for various schemes, whereas, the SCAs are

charging interest on the same @ 6%, 5% and 4% respectively from the beneficiaries. Thus, the SCAs are cornering away a sizeable share of interest by levying 3% as service charges. The Committee observe that this rate of interest is too high particularly in view of the current global scenario of falling interest rate and the poor financial condition of the beneficiaries. Besides, the Committee are of the strong view that the State Governments/UTs and State Channelising Agencies are equally responsible and must have an equal commitment to contribute for the welfare of the OBCs. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the rate of interest charged by the SCAs should be rationalized and the State Governments/UTs should provide funds to their Channelising Agencies for building up their infrastructure.

4.4 The Committee note that the State Governments/UT Administrations had been requested to conduct surveys of OBCs living below the poverty line in their respective States/UTs, but only five States/UTs i.e. Haryana, Rajasthan, Tripura, Chandigarh and Dadra and Nagar Haveli have furnished the information about the number of OBC families living below the poverty line. The Committee, therefore, recommend once again that the Ministry should take up the matter at the highest level with the remaining States/UTs to collect the necessary data so that welfare

schemes for OBCs may be formulated as per their requirements and also budgetary allocations could be accordingly enhanced.

CHAPTER-V

MINORITIES DIVISION

(a) GENERAL:

5.1 There are five minority communities (Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists and Zoroastrians,) which constitutes 18% of the total population of the country. There are only 5 schemes for their welfare namely – Maulana Azad Education Foundation, Coaching and Allied Assistance for Weaker Sections including SCs, OBCs and Minorities, National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, Scheme for Development of Urban Wakf Properties.

5.2 Under the Minorities Division during 2003-04 the Budgetary Estimate was Rs.53.14 crore which was revised to Rs. 38.71 crore. Out of which the expenditure incurred is only Rs. 26.05 crore. For the 2004-05 the Budgetary allocation is Rs. 76.97 crore.

5.3 The Committee note that keeping in view the percentage of minorities' population and their backwardness, particularly of the Muslims, being extreme, the Budgetary allocation is very meagre. The Committee also observe that there are very few welfare schemes formulated for the minorities. The Committee, therefore, recommend that more welfare schemes may be formulated for these sections of the society on the pattern of schemes in existence for the welfare of SCs and OBCs and the budgetary alloactions be suitably enhanced.

Major Head: 2225
Sub-Head: 08
Head No.: 08.00.31

(b) MAULANA AZAD EDUCATION FOUNDATION

5.4 Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) was set up with the objective of promoting education amongst the educationally backward sections of the society, minorities in particular and others in general. The government has given grants-in-aid to the Foundation under a plan scheme for building up a Corpus Fund. The interest accrued thereon is utilized by the Foundation for financing its different activities. The approved corpus for the MAEF is Rs. 100 crore. Out of this amount, Rs. 70 crore has been released to it. During 2003-04 allocation of Rs. 30 crore was approved as BE for the Foundation. After RE stage the allocation was reduced to Rs. 20.32 crore. The expenditure of only Rs. 3.75 crore was incurred and token budgetary allocation of Rs. 1 crore has been given for 2004-05.

5.5 The Committee note that there is an overwhelming response to the educational schemes of the Foundation from all over the country. The Foundation has started some more schemes for the benefit of the weaker and vulnerable sections of the minorities like Maulana Azad National Scholarship for Meritorious Girl Students, Maulana Azad Sadbhavna Kendra and training to girls in the trade of cutting and tailoring, Textile Designing, Arts & Crafts, etc. The Committee appreciate that the Foundation is providing useful services to the minorities. However, it is a matter of serious concern to the Committee that the required financial support to the Foundation, is not coming forward from the Government. The remaining part of the approved corpus of Rs. 100 crore i.e. Rs. 30 crore have not yet been

released to it, and instead grant equivalent to interest i.e. Rs. 3.75 crore has been released. The Committee, therefore, desire that the matter may be vigorously pursued with the Planning Commission and the Corpus Fund may be enhanced, so that the schemes of the Foundation do not suffer for want of funds.

CHAPTER-VI

DISABILITY DIVISION

Major Head: 2235
Sub-Head: 02
Head no.: 10.02.31

(a) ASSISTANCE TO DISABLED PERSONS FOR PURCHASE/FITTING OF AIDS and APPLIANCES

6.1 The main objective of the scheme is to assist the needy physically handicapped persons with durable, modern and standard aids and appliances to promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation under the scheme, the aids and appliances costing between Rs. 50/- and Rs. 6000/- are given to the disabled person free of cost whose monthly income is up to Rs.5000/- and appliance costing 50% of the cost to those having an income between Rs. 5001/- and Rs. 8000/- per month. The Ministry is providing aid to 152 NGOs under this scheme.

6.2 The Committee note that the ceiling of Rs. 6000/- on the aids and appliances is meagre in view of rise in price index and the fact that the objective of the scheme is to reduce the impact of locomotor, visual and other disabilities of serious impairment on the most vulnerable disabled persons. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should convince the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance about the need to increase the income ceiling as also the ceiling on the cost of appliances to assist the needy physically handicapped persons.

Sub-Head: 07
Head No.: 07.00.01

(b) NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

6.3 The National Commission for persons with disabilities has been set up through a Government Resolution notified on 17.10.2003 to aid and advise the Government regarding disability and rehabilitation matters and to make recommendations to it in this regard.

The Commission is competent to :

(i) recommend to the Central Government specific programme of action towards elimination of inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities for disabled persons so that they should be assessed for their abilities despite disability and given the right education, vocational training and poverty alleviation packages, employment, and other support services to achieve the goal of psycho-social acceptance and full participation in the social and economic life of the country;

(ii) review the status and conditions of institutions delivering services in the disabilities sector and make recommendations;

(iii) make annual reports to the Central and State Governments on matters concerning disabled persons with their recommendations; and

(iv) discharge any other work assigned by the Government from time to time.

The Commission has become functional in February 2004. A non-plan budget provision of Rs. 1.44 crore has been made for the Commission for 2004-2005.

6.4 The Committee take note that the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities has been established in February 2004 and that the budgetary allocation under the non-Plan side is only

to the tune of Rs. 1.44 crore. In the opinion of the Committee this meagre allocation is woefully inadequate in view of the significance and ambit of its mandate. The Committee, therefore, desire that the budgetary allocation for the Commission may be suitably enhanced so as to ensure effective functioning of the Commission.

Major Head: 2235
Sub-Head: 06
Head No.: 10.06.31

(c) REHABILITATION COUNCIL OF INDIA (RCI)

6.5 The RCI is an apex autonomous body to enforce uniform standards in training of professionals in the field of rehabilitation of the disabled persons in the country. It has been given statutory status through "the Rehabilitation Council Act, 1992", which enables it to shoulder responsibilities of regulating the training of rehabilitation professionals in a big way.

The main objectives of the Council are:

(i) to prescribe the minimum standards of education and training of individuals;

(ii) to regulate the standards in Government institutions throughout the country.

(iii) to recognize educational qualifications.

(iv) to recognize the foreign educational qualifications.

(v) to withdraw recognition in case of defaulting institutions.

(vi) to obtain information regarding education and training from institutions in India and abroad and

(vii) to maintain an Indian Rehabilitation Register.

6.10 The Budget provision for the Council during 2003-04 was Rs.3.85 crore against which Rs.2.94 crore was released. For the current financial year (2004-05) the budgetary provision Rs.3.90 crore has been made.

In reply to a question relating to availability of adequate number of trained personnel for imparting training to approximately 18.49 million disabled persons for their rehabilitation, the Ministry has stated that there are 24000 professionals in the country out of which 20000 are engaged in teaching /training of disabled.

There are 50 lakh persons with disabilities upto the age of 18 years. Thus the ratio works out as 1:250. According to the Prevailing norms, the ratio of special teachers to disabled persons varies from 1:5 to 1:10 depending on the type of disability.

The Committee has been further informed that as per the assessment made by the RCI in the requirement of 362300 trained persons was established for 10% of the total disabled population in the 9th Plan period at a cost of Rs.436.5 crore. The RCI has further stated that this assessment is based on 10% prevalence rate of disability. As per the latest NSSO Report (2002) the prevalence is 1.8% and according to the census Report(2004), the prevalence of disability is 2.1.%. In the light of these latest assessments, the council is reviewing is estimates for the requirement of human resource development in 10th and 11th Plan.

6.6 The Committee note with concern that for giving training to about 18.49 million disabled persons in the country only 20000 professionals (out of the total 24000 professionals) are engaged in teaching/training of persons with disabilities. The requirement of professionals who give training to the disabled for their rehabilitation, as per 1996 RCI report, was assessed to be 3,62,300

for only 10% of the total disabled population in the 9th Plan. The Committee note with dismay that the number of professionals available for training/rehabilitation of the disabled i.e. 20000 is too inadequate in view of the total number of disabled persons i.e. 18.49 million. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Government should take urgent measures to ensure availability of optimum number of professionals for imparting training to the disabled as per established norms.

CHAPTER-VIII

SOCIAL DEFENCE DIVISION

Major Head: 2235
Sub-Head:05.00.31.07

(a) AN INTEGRATED PROGRAMME FOR OLDER PERSONS

7.1 Under the scheme of 'An Integrated Programme for older persons' central grant-in-aid is given to voluntary organizations (90:10 basis) for running old Age Homes, Day Care Centres, Mobile Medical Units etc., as well as for supporting and strengthening non-institutional services for the aged like providing legal counselling assistance for the supplying pension, GPF, HRA, Income Tax, Banking Services and medical examination of their eyes for receiving spectacles, obtaining hearing aids and dentures etc. The allocation of funds for 2002-03 was Rs.18.27 crore against which Rs.16.46 crore was released. Similarly during 2003-04 Rs.17.80 crore was allocated against which Rs.15.80 crore were released. Allocation for 2004-05 is Rs.18.79 crore.

7.2 In reply to a question the Committee has been informed that due to general improvement in health care facilities over the years, there is a gradual increase in the life expectancy. In 1996 the population of persons above 60 years was 6.67% of the total population. At present it has increased to 7% and expected to rise to 8.94% in 2016. As such, the number of those needing the State support can be expected to increase. During 2002-03 and 2003-04 less expenditure was incurred due to non-receipt of sufficient complete proposals from eligible organizations.

7.3 The Committee note that the number of older persons who need State support for their care and protection is increasing year after year due to general improvement in health and their life expectancy. The Committee observe that there are large number of senior citizens who are not getting adequate state support for their care and protection whereas the government could not fully

utilize even the meagre budgetary provisions made for the purpose. The Committee desire that the exact number of older persons may be assessed urgently and proper awareness about the Government schemes for their care and protection may be created to enable them to avail the benefit under the scheme. The performance of the NGOs engaged in this scheme should be strictly monitored.

NEW DELHI;

17 August 2004
26 Sarvana 1926 (Saka)

SUMITRA MAHAJAN
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

MINUTES OF THE FIRST SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON TUESDAY, 10th AUGUST 2004.

The Committee met from 14.15 hrs. to 16.00 hrs. in Committee Room `B' Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Smt. Sumitra Mahajan - Chairperson

MEMBERS
LOK SABHA

2. Shri Ashok Argal
3. Smt. Susmita Bauri
4. Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal
5. Shri Kailash Meghwal
6. Shri Rameshwar Oraon
7. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
8. Shri T. Madhusudan Reddy
9. Shri Daroga Prasad Saroj
10. Dr. R. Senthil
11. Smt. Pratibha Singh
12. Smt. Krishna Tirath
13. Smt. Usha Verma
14. Shri K. Yerrannaidu

RAJYA SABHA

15. Smt. Jamana Devi Barupal
16. Dr. Narayan Singh Manaklao
17. Shri Dharam Pal Sabharwal
18. Shri Ram Narayan Sahu
19. Shri Tarlochan Singh
20. Shri Veer Singh

SECRETARIAT

1.	Shri John Joseph	-	Additional Secretary
2.	Shri J.P. Sharma	-	Director
3.	Shri R.K. Saxena	-	Deputy Secretary
4.	Shri Bhupesh Kumar	-	Under Secretary

Contd…2/-

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

Sl.No.	Name of the Officer	Designation
1.	Smt. Sarita Prasad	Secretary(SJ&E)
2.	Smt. Rajwant Sandhu	JS(DD&PREM)
3.	Smt.Jayati Chandra	JS(SD & Media)
4.	Shri P.N. Murthy	JS(SCD)
5.	Shri Mrutunjay Sahoo	JS & FA (SJ&E)
6.	Shri H.C. Mahajan	CMD (NHFDC)
7.	Dr. Amitabh Rajan	CMD(NSFDC)
8.	Shri R.N. Shastri	CMD(NMDFC)
9.	Shri B.K. Pandey	Dir.(Fin.)
10.	Shri Haseeb Ahmed	Dir.(SCD)
11.	Shri V.R. Malhotra	Dir.(SCD)
12.	Shri S.A. Siddiqui	DS(SCD)
13.	Shri J.S. Kochar	Dir. (SD)

2. At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the members for their nomination to the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment and informed them that the Standing Committee system was introduced in 1993 with a view to making the Parliament more effective in exercising control over the Executive. She further informed that there were 17 Departmentally Related Standing Committees which covered under their jurisdiction all the Ministries and Departments of Government of India. Recently, the rules have been amended and the Departmentally Related Standing Committees have been restructured. Now there are 24 Standing Committees. The erstwhile Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare has been bifurcated – as Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment and the other one is Standing Committee on Labour. Under the restructured Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment, there are two Ministries, namely, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

3. Thereafter, Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed Smt. Sarita Prasad, Secretary and other officials of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and asked them to brief the members about the budgetary allocations for the year 2004-05 and the expenditure incurred so far on various schemes/programmes undertaken by the Ministry.

4. The Committee then took up evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The important topics discussed in the meeting include (a) General Performance of the Ministry, (b) Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes(c) Budget Allocation for Other Backward Classes Division (d) National Backward classes Finance and Development Corporation (e) Sangati Hostel Scheme for SCs and OBCs [f] Scheme for upgradation of merit of SC Students, [g] Maulana Azad Education Foundation [h] National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, [i] Central Adoption Resource Agency.

5. The Secretary and other officials of the Ministry replied to the queries raised by the Members. The Chairperson directed the Secretary to send written replies to the queries of the Members on which ready information was not available with them during the evidence.

6. The Chairperson thanked the Secretary and other officials for giving valuable information to the Committee on the subject in a candid manner.

A verbatim record of the evidence was kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON TUESDAY, 17th AUGUST 2004.

The Committee met from 15.00 hrs. to 16.30 hrs. in Committee Room `A' Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Smt. Sumitra Mahajan - Chairperson

MEMBERS
LOK SABHA

2. Shri M. Appadurai
3. Smt. Susmita Bauri
4. Shri Mahaveer Bhagora
5. Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal
6. Shri Rupchand Murmu
7. Shri Rameshwar Oraon
8. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
9. Shri Daroga Prasad Saroj
10. Dr. R. Senthil
11. Smt. Pratibha Singh
12. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya
13. Smt. Usha Verma
14. Shri K. Yerrannaidu

RAJYA SABHA

15. Shri Silvius Condpan
16. Dr. Narayan Singh Manaklao
17. Shri Dharam Pal Sabharwal
18. Shri Ram Narayan Sahu
19. Smt. Savita Sharda
20. Shri Tarlochan Singh
21. Shri Veer Singh

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri J.P. Sharma - Director
2. Shri R.K. Saxena - Deputy Secretary
3. Shri Bhupesh Kumar - Under Secretary

Contd…2/-

2. At the outset, Hon'ble Chairperson apprised the Committee that the Departmentally Related Standing Committee were constituted very late, as such, only one week was available for the assigned work. The Committee held its discussions with the representatives of the Ministries on 10th August, 2004. Within the short time available to the Committee only recommendations/observations on important issues could be formulated. Hon'ble Chairperson also informed that if any Hon'ble Member feel that any specific issue/subject has not been included in these reports, the same can be taken up when subjects are selected for detailed examination.

3. The Committee then took up the draft First Report on Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the year 2004-05 and adopted the same without any amendment.

4. XXX xxxxx XXXXXX

5. The Committee authorised the Chairperson to finalise the Reports and present the same to Parliament on their behalf.

6. The Committee then placed on record their deep appreciation and thanks to the officers and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat for their hard work and valuable assistance rendered by them to facilitate the work of the Committee in preparing their draft reports within the limited time.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX

STATEMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS

S.No.	Para No.	Recommendations/Observations
1	2	3
1.	2.7	The Committee note with concern that during 2003-2004, the Ministry's Budget Estimate was Rs. 1410 crore which was reduced to Rs. 1250 crore at the Revised Estimate stage, and out of this reduced budget the Ministry could spend only Rs. 1182.26 crore. The Committee have been apprised of various reasons for reduction of funds at RE stage and even less spending, such as the Ministry of Finance making the revised estimates on the basis of expenditure level upto 30th September, late receipt of proposals and utilization certificates from State Governments and NGOs resulting in utilization of funds to the extent of only 30-35%, non-utilisation due to pendency of schemes for revision for years, unspent balance with institutes due to non-filling of posts, non-approval of awareness generation schemes, etc. Keeping in view the significance of the mandate of the Ministry, i.e. the upliftment of the most disadvantaged, marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society, the Committee strongly recommend that the Ministry should gear up its implementation and monitoring machinery and conduct periodic review meetings with the State Governments/implementing agencies and impress upon them to fully utilise the fund allocated under various schemes.
2.	2.8	The Committee note that the Budgetary allocation of the Ministry is reduced every year at RE stage. The Committee has been apprised that the basis of reduction at RE stage is the pace of expenditure upto 30th September, which is only 30% to 35%. The Committee further note that most of the schemes of the Ministry are implemented by the State Governments and NGOs. The State Governments are not able to submit their proposals along with the utilization certificates in time, which result in slow pace of expenditure and reduction at RE stage. In the opinion of the Committee most of the schemes/programmes of the Ministry relate to development and welfare of marginalized sections including Scheduled Castes, OBCs, Minorities and the disabled. The Committee, therefore, desire that keeping in view the practical difficulty of the Ministry of social Justice and Empowerment and the interest of weaker sections, the Ministry of Finance should be persuaded to take a lenient view and avoid drastic cut in allocations at RE stage.

3.	3.12	The Committee note with concern that the Ministry have drastically revised allocation of funds for the scheme of 'Upgradation of Merit for Scheduled Caste students' in anticipation of the replacement of the existing scheme with a new scheme namely "Merit Based Scholarship and Assistance to Meritorious SC students for studying in residential public schools/premier institutions." The Committee are extremely disappointed and express their strong concern over the fact that the Ministry have not been able to finalize their proposed modifications in this scheme for the last two financial years due to procedural wrangles which have hampered the progress of this scheme. Keeping in view the pivotal role of this scheme in shaping up of the academic future of the SC students, the Committee strongly recommend that the Ministry thrash out the modalities of this new scheme with the concerned authority at the earliest, so that the bottlenecks holding the implementation of this scheme are overcome and the revised scheme can be implemented at the earliest. Further, the Committee opine that implementation of the scheme in its present form should not be stopped until the scheme is fully revised and approved by the competent authority.
4.	3.13	The Committee note that the Central Standing Tripartite Committee set up by the Planning Commission in 1999 had grouped all the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India into three categories based upon the feasibility of earmarking funds under SCP and TSP. In category-III 30 Ministries/Departments have been grouped which are service-oriented and also have activities of divisible nature. In its 30th Report on Demands For Grants (2003-2004) the Committee had recommended that out of the 30 Ministries/Departments only 14 Ministries/Departmernts had formulated their Special component Plan and the remaining 16 Ministries/Departments were to be persuaded by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for doing the same. Unfortunately no progress has been made in this regard. Therefore, the Committee take a serious note and strongly reiterate their earlier recommendation made in this regard. The Committee also further recommend that the Planning Commission should not aprove the Annual Plans of the Ministries which have not yet formulated the SCP for SCs.

5	3.14	The Committee further note that the SCA funds allocated during 2003-2004 are lying unused with some State Governments like Bihar (Rs. 1237.53 lakh), Goa (Rs.13.55 lakh), Jharkhand (Rs. 2117.13 lakh) Kerala (Rs. 712.44 lakh) and Punjab (Rs. 2084.62 lakh). The Committee are disappointed to note that despite several written requests from the Ministry, State Governments have not furnished the utilization certificates so far. This clearly indicates that these State Governments are not fulfilling their commitment and obligation towards the poor SC beneficiaries and even the funds being provided by the Centre are not being utilized for their upliftment. The Committee are of the opinion that the matter should be taken up with the concerned State Governments at the highest level. The progress achieved may be conveyed to the Committee.
6.	3.15	Similarly, the Committee have recommended on many occasions during the last few years that in order to avoid diversion of SCA funds for other purposes, the States/UTs should maintain separate accounts of SCA funds, but it is reported that so far only 19 States have opened separate budget heads for SCA funds. Further, the Ministry do not have the names of the defaulting States/UTs, which is very strange. The Committee are extremely disappointed and express their concern over this issue. The Committee strongly reiterate their earlier recommendation of opening up of a separate budget head of account of SCA funds by all States/UTs, so as to avoid diversion of funds.
7.	3.16	The Committee take note of the recommendation of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes that the cultivable land should be distributed amongst the landless SC women from SCA funds. The land purchase scheme has been adopted in Karnataka, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu for the upliftment of SC women. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should impress upon the other States to adopt this model, as it would lead to the socio-economic emancipation of SC women by making them self-reliant.
8.	3.17	The Committee further observe, as mentioned already, that funds are not being utilized properly by States/NGOs and they are not furnishing the Utilization Certificates in time. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment shall furnish the details of funds allotted under the schemes meant for the welfare of SC population and non- utilization of the same by the State Governments/NGOs to the public representatives of the area to act as watchdogs and to monitor the functioning of the schemes properly.

9.	3.18	The Committee are constrained to note that a large number of potential beneficiaries for whose welfare the Ministry has formulated various schemes are unable to avail the benefits thereof as they are not aware of the existence of those schemes. The Committee therefore strongly recommend that the Ministry should take effective steps in creating full awareness about its various schemes all over the country. To meet this objective the ministry should utilize the services of the audiovisual media, the print media and the village panchayats.
10.	3.22	The Committee note with concern that the Ministry have drastically revised allocation of funds for the scheme of 'Upgradation of Merit for Scheduled Caste students' in anticipation of the replacement of the existing scheme with a new scheme namely "Merit Based Scholarship and Assistance to Meritorious SC students for studying in residential public schools/premier institutions." The Committee are extremely disappointed and express their strong concern over the fact that the Ministry have not been able to finalize their proposed modifications in this scheme for the last two financial years due to procedural wrangles which have hampered the progress of this scheme. Keeping in view the pivotal role of this scheme in shaping up of the academic future of the SC students, the Committee strongly recommend that the Ministry thrash out the modalities of this new scheme with the concerned authority at the earliest, so that the bottlenecks holding the implementation of this scheme are overcome and the revised scheme can be implemented at the earliest. Further, the Committee opine that implementation of the scheme in its present form should not be stopped until the scheme is fully revised and approved by the competent authority.
11.	3.25	The Committee note that there are separate schemes for providing Hostel facilities to SC boys and girls and the Government is proposing to modify the existing scheme to provide for 'Sangati Hostels' jointly to students belonging to SCs, OBCs and Minority Communities for ensuring and enhancing such facilities and for integrating the weaker sections within the mainstream of society. The Committee desire that while integrating the scheme, the Scheduled Caste students particularly Scheduled Caste girl students should not be deprived of their legitimate share of number of seats in hostels.
12.	4.3	The Committee note with dismay that the NBCFDC provides funds to SCAs @ 3%, 2% and 1% interest respectively for various schemes, whereas, the SCAs are charging interest on the same @ 6%, 5% and 4% respectively from the beneficiaries. Thus the SCAs are cornering away a sizeable share of interest by levying 3% as service charges. The Committee observe that this rate of interest is too high particularly in view of the current global scenario of falling interest rate and the poor financial conditions of the beneficiaries. Besides, the Committee are of the strong view that the State Governments/UTs and State Channelising Agencies are equally responsible and must have an equal

		commitment to contribute for the welfare of the OBCs. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the rate of interest charged by the SCAs should be rationalized and the State Governments/UTs should provide funds to their Channelising Agencies for building up their infrastructure.
13.	4.4	The Committe note that the State Governments/UT Administrations had been requested to conduct surveys of OBCs living below the poverty line in their respective States/UTs, but only five States/UTs i.e. Haryana, Rajasthan, Tripura, Chandigarh and Dadra and Nagar Haveli have furnished the information about the number of OBC families living below the poverty line. The Committee, therefore, recommend once again that the Ministry should take up the matter at the highest level with the rermaining States/UTs to collect the necessary data so that welfare schemes for OBCs may be formulated as per their requirements.
14.	5.3	The Committee note that keeping in view the percentage of minoritie's population and their backwardness particularly of the Muslims being very extreme, the Budgetary allocation is very meagre. The Committee also observe that there are very few welfare schemes formulated for the minorities. The Committee, therefore, recommend that more welfare schemes may be formulated for these sections of the society on the pattern of welfare schemes in existence for the welfare of SCs and OBCs and the budgetary allocations be suitably enhanced.
15.	5.5	The Committee note that there is an overwhelming response to the educational schemes of the Foundation from all over the country. The Foundation has started some more schemes for the benefit of the weaker and vulnerable sections of the minorities like Maulana Azad National Scholarship for Meritorious Girl Students, Maulana Azad Sadbhavna Kendra and training to girls in the trade of cutting and tailoring, Textile Designing, Arts & Crafts, etc. The Committee appreciate that the Foundation is providing useful services to the minorities. However, it is a matter of serious concern to the Committee that the required financial support to the Foundation is not coming forward from the Government. The remaining part of the approved corpus of Rs. 100 crore i.e. Rs. 30 crore have not yet been released to it, and instead grant equivalent to interest i.e. Rs. 3.75 crore has been released. The Committee, therefore, desire that the matter may be vigorously pursued with the Planning Commission and the Corpus Fund may be enhanced, so that the schemes of the Foundation do not suffer for want of funds.

16.	6.2	The Committee note that the ceiling of Rs. 6000/- on the aids and appliances is meagre in view of rise in price index and the fact that the objective of the scheme is to reduce the impact of locomotor, visual and other disabilities of serious impairment on the most vulnerable disabled persons. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should convince the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance about the need to increase the income ceiling as also the ceiling on the cost of appliances to assist the needy phsically handicapped persons.
17.	6.4	The Committee take note that the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities has been established in February 2004 and that the budgetary allocation under the non-Plan side is only to the tune of Rs. 1.44 crore. In the opinion of the Committee this meagre allocation is woefully inadequate in view of the significance and ambit of its mandate. The Committee, therefore, desire that the budgetary allocation for the Commission may be suitably enhanced so as to ensure effective functioning of the Commission.
18.	6.6	The Committee note with concern that for giving training to about 18.49 million disabled persons in the country only 20000 professionals (out of the total 24000 professionals) are engaged in teaching/training of persons with disabilities. The requirement of professionals who give training to the disabled for their rehabilitation, as per 1996 RCI report, was assessed to be 3,62,300 for only 10% of the total disabled population in the 9th Plan. The Committee note with dismay that the number of professionals available for training/rehabilitation of the disabled i.e. 20000 is too inadequate in view of the total number of disabled persons i.e. 18.49 million. The Committee therefore, strongly recommend that the Government should take urgent measures to ensure availability of optimum number of professionals for imparting training to the disabled as per established norms.
19.	7.2	The Committee note that the number of older persons who need State support for their care and protection is increasing year after year due to general improvement in health and their life expectancy. The Committee observe that there are large number of senior citizens who are not getting adequate state support for their care and protection whereas the government could not fully utilize even the meagre budgetary provisions made for the purpose. The Committee desire that the exact number of older persons may be assessed urgently and proper awareness about the Government schemes for their care and protection may be created to enable them to avail the benefit under the scheme. The performance of the NGOs engaged in this scheme should be strictly monitored.